

Florida's

John Pennekamp

CORAL REEF

S T A T E P A R K



HEADQUARTERS ON KEY LARGO

Florida's

John Pennekamp

CORAL REEF

S T A T E P A R K



HEADQUARTERS ON KEY LARGO

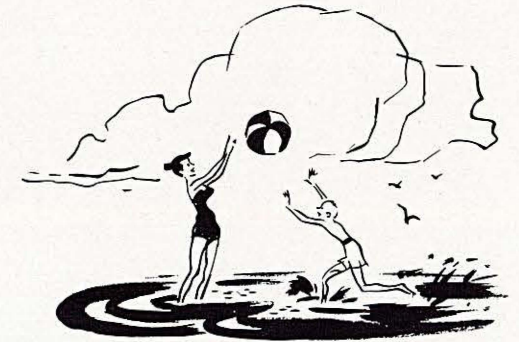
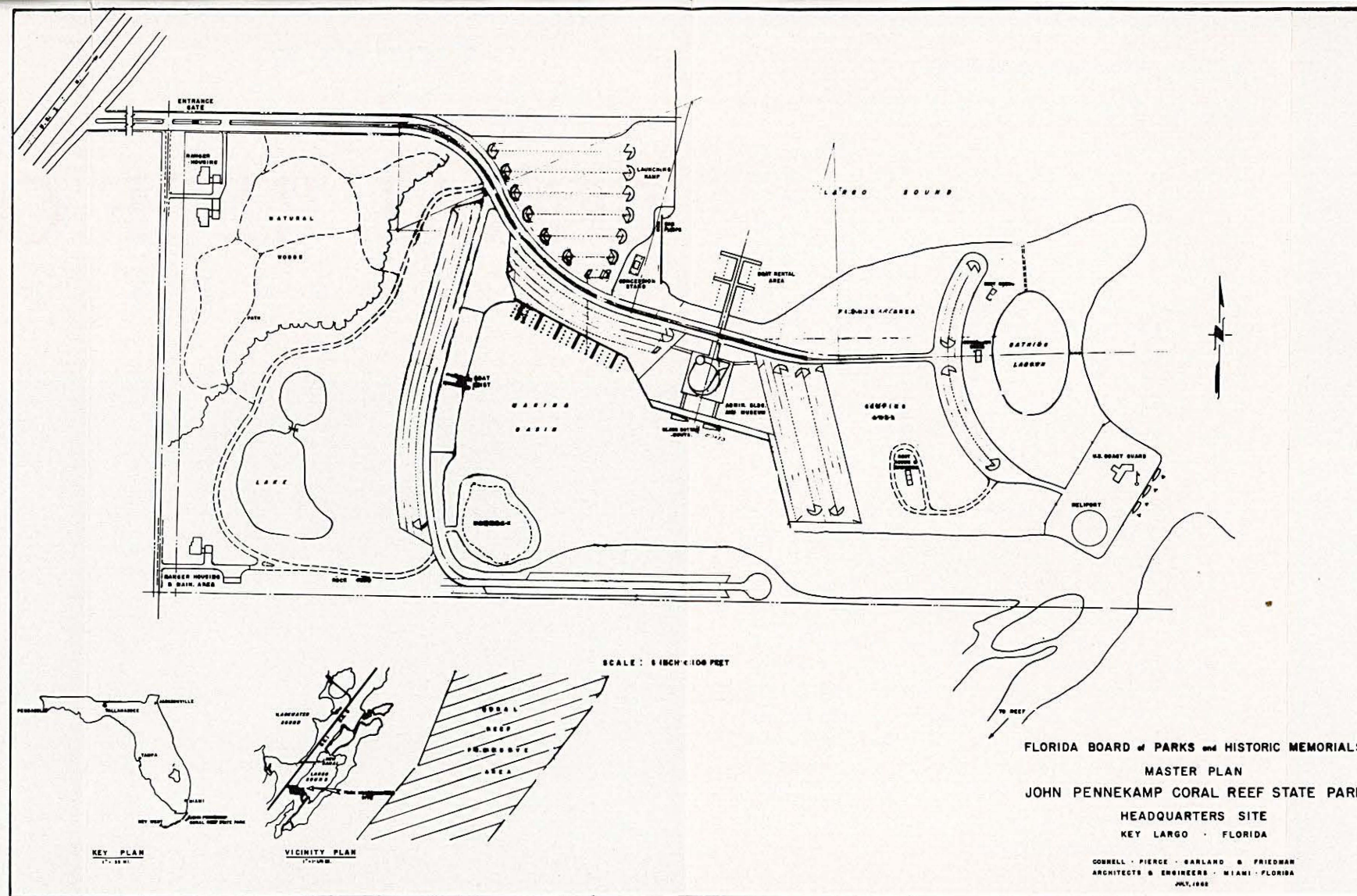


One of the newest and by far the largest Florida State Park is also the **FIRST UNDERSEAS PARK** within continental United States. The John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park (named for a Miami editor active in conservation) is twenty-one miles long and three and one-half miles wide, lying in the Atlantic Ocean off Key Largo. By dedication of certain State of Florida lands and by Presidential Proclamation of United States lands this area is now a State Park because, "it is part of the only living reef formation along the coast of North America, and it is in the public interest to preserve it for the benefit of all people." Forty of the fifty-two species of coral known for the Atlantic Reef System are found in this Park. By visiting the reef by boat one can easily recognize such coral as: Staghorn, Moosehead, Leaf, Hat, Star,

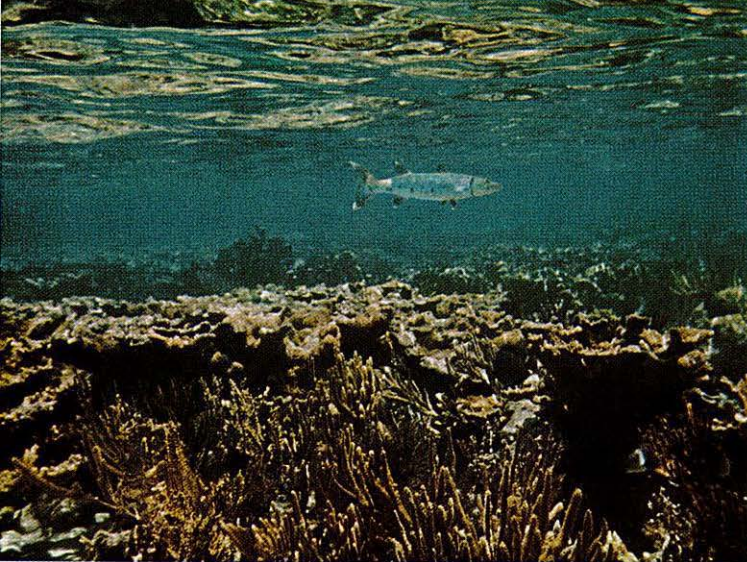
Starlet, Finger, Brain, Rose, Tube, Ivory, Flower and Cactus. The former destruction caused by commercial shell, coral and gorgonia hunters, fish collectors who clobber natural rock and growing coral to get at specimens and those who would use explosives now has been stopped. Commercial and sport fishing are proceeding unhindered within the law and the Rules and Regulations of the Park. **SPEAR FISH-**

ING, HUNTING, OR SHOOTING ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED. Recreational activities such as boating, skin diving, underwater photography, and similar sports are encouraged. In this park scientists and students are continuing their invaluable studies of geology and growth. Because this reef is protected as a breeding ground for fish, shell fish and turtles, the fishing industry will benefit economically. The

land base headquarters area consist of over 2,100 acres on Key Largo. Here the Florida Park Service has constructed roadways and parking areas, picnic areas, campgrounds, nature trails, refreshment building, and boat launching ramps and docks. Overnight camping may be enjoyed for \$1.50 per night per campsite, plus tax. A bathing lagoon, administration building, marine museum, boat hoists, fuel, and other



improvements are scheduled for the future. From the boat docks charter glass-bottom boats transport the public to the reef area where, for the first time, a new and beautiful and unique park is seen. The fantastic underwater marine and plant life and general structure can be seen through the clear, water from shallow to sixty foot depths. It is a fairyland of beauty, science and romance. The old wrecks lying on the bottom are no longer to be molested, and can be clearly seen. Their tenants such as brilliantly colored tropical salt-water fish, loggerhead turtle, barracuda and shark can be observed swimming in and out of the shadows cast by these unfortunate vessels of many years ago. The reef area is protected by patrol boats and onshore observation. Large and durable signs plainly identify the boundaries. For further information, write John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, P. O. Box 487, Key Largo, Florida. Telephone: 852-5350.



John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park

Indescribably beautiful and containing all the romance and mystery of the deep, the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park is one of the most unusual and fascinating State Parks in the world. Nearly 75 square miles of living coral formations are embraced by this Park's boundaries. Denizens of the deep swim unmolested among the multi-colored coral and skeletons of ships wrecked centuries ago. Here are the spawning grounds for numerous tropical fish. Here also are the ocean's dangerous delinquents — shark, barracuda and the moray eel. Situated on Key Largo and just 50 miles south of Miami, this State Park is expected to be on the itinerary of nearly every traveler headed south. Boats equipped with glass-bottom facilities are available to transport park visitors from the headquarters site on Largo Sound out to the reef area. Situated in the headquarters site are extensive parking areas, picnic and camping areas, boat launching and docking facilities, and many other improvements. To assist in the development and operation of the park, an entrance fee of 50¢ per car or \$2 per bus or truck, plus tax, is charged. Persons desiring to launch their private boats within the park pay a small 50¢ fee, plus tax, for this privilege. A visit to the John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park will soon become a must for tourists and native Floridians alike. For further information on this and other parks, write Florida Park Service, Tallahassee, Florida.

